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## **Sen. Gilbert's bill would prohibit Molotov cocktails**

**LANSING** – Possession of a Molotov cocktail or similar incendiary device would be prohibited under legislation passed unanimously today in the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Jud Gilbert announced.

Senate Bill 1287 would amend the Michigan penal code to add prosecution of individuals who manufacture, sell, buy, or possess these weapons without requiring proof of intent to frighten, terrorize, injure or kill a person or damage property.

“These are very dangerous devices and people who possess them should be punished for having them,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac, sponsor of the bill. “Possession alone is enough to warrant federal penalties. It is obvious that the intent with these devices is to harm someone or something. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is not needed and is an unnecessary burden for prosecutors.”

Possession of a Molotov cocktail and similar devices will be punishable with a maximum term of imprisonment for four years. Penalties increase if property damage or physical injury or death results from the device exploding.

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